

Amendments to the claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A tire winch for attachment to a vehicle tire, said tire winch comprising:

a spool having a substantially cylindrical hub;

a means for attaching said spool to the vehicle tire such that a rotation of the vehicle tire causes a first point on said spool to rotate about an arc that is substantially equal to an arc rotated by a second point on said vehicle tire; and

a torque-limiting means for causing said first point on said spool to rotate about an arc that is substantially less than an arc rotated by a second point on said vehicle tire when a torque exerted upon said spool exceeds a predetermined limit, wherein said torque-limiting means comprises a ratchet mechanism.

2. (Cancelled)

3. The tire winch as claimed in claim 1 wherein said hub is dimensioned such that an outer diameter of said hub is at least 40% of an outer diameter of the vehicle tire.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Original) A tire winch kit for attachment to a vehicle tire, said tire winch kit comprising:

an unwinding spool comprising a substantially cylindrical hub having an outer diameter that is at least 40% of an outer diameter of the vehicle tire;

a winding spool comprising a substantially cylindrical hub having an outer diameter that is less than 40% of an outer diameter of the vehicle tire; and

a means for attaching one of said unwinding spool and said winding spool to the vehicle tire such that a rotation of the vehicle tire causes a first point on said spool to rotate about an arc that is substantially equal to an arc rotated by a second point on said vehicle tire.

7. (Original) The tire winch kit as claimed in claim 6 further comprising a flexible pulling member dimensioned for attachment to said outer diameter of said hub.

8. (Original) The tire winch system as claimed in claim 6 wherein said flexible pulling member is a strap.

9. (Original) The tire winch kit as claimed in claim 6 wherein said means for attaching one of said unwinding spool and said winding spool to the vehicle tire comprises a plurality of blocks extending from an outer surface of a rim of said tire, and wherein each of said winding spool and said unwinding spool comprise a plurality of toothed sections dimensioned to mate with said plurality of blocks.

10. (Original) The tire winch kit as claimed in claim 9 further comprising a plurality of clips dimensioned to secure one of said winding spool and said unwinding spool to said tire.

11. (Original) The tire winch kit as claimed in claim 6 wherein said means for attaching one of said unwinding spool and said winding spool to the vehicle tire comprises a hub mounted bracket comprising a plurality of holes disposed and dimensioned to mate with a plurality of lugs of said vehicle tire and a plurality of teeth, and wherein each of said winding spool and said unwinding spool comprise a plurality of toothed sections dimensioned to mate with said plurality of teeth of said hub mounted bracket.

12. (Original) The tire winch kit as claimed in claim 11 further comprising a plurality of clips dimensioned to secure one of said winding spool and said unwinding spool to said tire.

13. (Original) The tire winch kit as claimed in claim 6 further comprising a torque-limiting means for causing said first point on said spool to rotate about an arc that is substantially less than an arc rotated by a second point on said vehicle tire when a torque exerted upon said spool exceeds a predetermined limit.

14. (Original) The tire winch kit as claimed in claim 13 wherein said torque-limiting means comprises a ratchet mechanism.

15. (Currently Amended) A method for pulling an object, said method comprising the steps of:

attaching a tire winch comprising a spool and a hub to a drive wheel of a vehicle, wherein said hub has a diameter that is less than a diameter of a tire of said drive wheel of said vehicle;

wrapping a first end of ~~said~~ a flexible pulling member around said hub such that only a small portion of a length of said flexible pulling member extends therefrom;

attaching a second end of a said flexible pulling member to the object to be pulled;

engaging said drive wheel of said vehicle such that said vehicle moves away from said object and such that said that said flexible pulling member unwinds from said hub; and

continuing said engagement of said drive wheel of said vehicle until said pulling member disengages from said hub;

whereby said object is pulled a distance that is less than a distance traveled by said vehicle.